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New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
New Jersey Board of Nursing
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June 10, 2015

VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Tahirah D Merrill, C.H.H.A.
3727 Herbert Avenue, Apt B
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

RE: I/M/O Tahirah D Merrill, C.H.H.A.
Consent Order

Dear Ms. Tahirah D Merrill:

Enclosed herewith please find a "filed" copy of the Consent Order ("Order") entered with regard to the above referenced matter. Please read this Order carefully, as you may be subject to additional discipline if you do not comply with the terms of the Order. If you have any questions please contact Deputy Attorney General Shirley Dickstein 973-648-2779.

Sincerely yours,

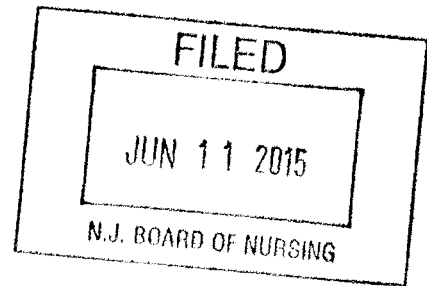
Joanne Leone, Acting Executive Director,
State Board of Nursing

Encl.

cc: Shirley Dickstein, DAG

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Division of Law - 5th Floor
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION
OF THE CERTIFICATION OF

Administrative Action

Tahirah Merrill,

INTERIM CONSENT ORDER

Certification # 26NH11822800

TO PRACTICE AS A HOMEMAKER-HOME
HEALTH AIDE IN THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of a flagging notice indicating that Tahirah Merrill ("Respondent"), a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey, was arrested on 4/07/15 for Endangering the Welfare of Children, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:24-4a, Aggravated Assault, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:12-1b, Unlawful Possession of Weapons, in violation

of N.J.S. 2C:39-5 and Possession of Weapons for Unlawful Purposes, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:39-4D.

Specifically, it is alleged that Respondent assaulted her 11-year old son, I.C. with a weapon. The police recorded an interview with I.C., who stated that his mother beat him with a coaxial cable wire because he had asked a question. He also told detectives his mother drinks and uses cocaine all the time. I.C.'s shirt was torn and he had several linear swollen bruises on his back, chest, neck and both forearms. His face was also red and scratched. The injuries were photographed by the police.

The police report indicates that at the time of her arrest, Respondent appeared to be under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance and had trouble focusing on the conversation. Her speech was slow and slurred and she appeared delusional and made statements about hearing and seeing things that were not there. Respondent's family members reported that she is known to use controlled dangerous substances.

The allegations, if proven, would disqualify Respondent from certification as a homemaker-home health aide pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:11-24.3 and demonstrate that Respondent engaged in acts constituting crimes or offenses which relates adversely to the activity regulated by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f), which provides a basis for disciplinary action against Respondent's certification. Additionally, Respondent's

use of controlled dangerous substances, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent is presently engaged in drug use that is likely to impair her ability to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide and provide a basis for disciplinary action under N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(1). N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 would also authorize the Board to order Respondent to secure medical or other treatment, or order Respondent to submit to medical or diagnostic testing and monitoring or psychological evaluation for use of controlled dangerous substances.

It appearing that Respondent agrees to voluntarily enter into an interim agreement temporarily surrendering her certification, to be deemed a suspension, without making admissions and without prejudice to her ability to defend any action brought based on the above allegations, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 11th day of June, 2015,

ORDERED:

1. Respondent is hereby granted leave to voluntarily surrender her certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey, to be deemed a suspension, pending the disposition of the criminal charges against her, successful completion of all criminal terms (if

any) and payment of all fines and penalties (if any). The suspension shall be effective upon the filing of this Order.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding herself out as a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey and/or practicing as a homemaker-home health aide, which includes but is not limited to performing delegated nursing regimens or nursing tasks delegated through the authority of a duly licensed professional nurse pending further order of the Board.

3. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of Respondent.

4. The entry of the within Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by Respondent of any statutes or regulations governing the homemaker-home health aide practice in the State of New Jersey or any other violations of law, by the Board, the Attorney General, or any other regulatory or law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, any pending matters under investigation, including prosecution of this matter.

5. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey certification in the future, Respondent shall:

- a. Furnish the Board with documentation of the disposition of the criminal charges against her and successful completion of all criminal sentencing terms (if any) and payment of all fines and penalties (if any).

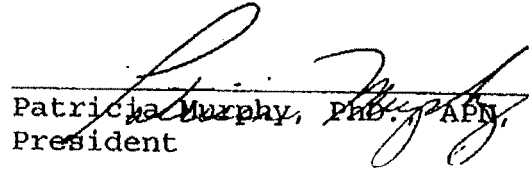
- b. Appear before the Board to discuss her readiness to reenter practice as a homemaker-home health aide.
- c. Affirmatively establish her fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter active practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide within New Jersey.

6. The Board reserves the right to place restrictions and/or limitations upon Respondent's certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey in the event that her certification is reinstated.

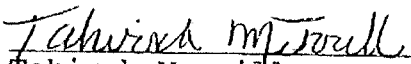
7. Any violation of this order by Respondent shall constitute grounds for such proceedings as are permitted by law.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD, APRN, FAAN
President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.


Tahirah Merrill

Date: 6/11/15

